NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg



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SENATOR GREGG SUPPORTS WAR FUNDING MEASURE

Bill also provides for increased homeland security initiatives

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today applauded last evening's Senate passage of the Fiscal Year 2003 Supplemental Appropriations bill that provides funding for continued military operations in Iraq as well as increased funding for homeland defense. Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, included an amendment in the measure to ensure that funding for first responders is spent in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

Senator Gregg stated, "Our troops are doing a tremendous job and yesterday's vote in the Senate demonstrates our commitment to the task they have at hand. The United States military will remain well-manned and well-equipped in their fight and our thoughts and prayers continue to go with them.

"The Senate also continues to aggressively fund homeland security initiatives, including the need to ensure that federal funding for first responders provides maximum benefits to states. Once this funding reaches the local level, it will make American safer and better protected against acts of terrorism."

Senator Gregg's amendment requires the Department of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a report on the distribution of the federal assistance to, and within, states in support of first responder preparedness and response activities to possible acts of terrorism. In the report, the Department must detail how the funds are distributed in relation to assessed threats, vulnerabilities and risks to each state and local government, as well as any proposed changes to the current formula used to distribute the funds.